works could be finished in 1103,and the result has justified their doubt. It has also to be remarked that the programme of work laid down by the Government was dislocated by the reduction of grant carried in the Legislative Council under 'Timber, etc., removed by Sirkar Agency.' The cut forced the Government to adopt a revised programme providing for much less extraction of timber. The quantity ordered to be extracted has further not been fully felled. It is understood there is now more than 14,000 candies of timber still awaiting extraction from the area tapped by the Tramway, and I hardly think that any non-official friends would advise the Government to suspend or abolish the Tramway allowing so much valuable standing trees to rot and decay. By the extraction of 12,000 candies out of the above 14,000 candies, the Conservator of Forests expects in the ensuing year a net gain of about Rs. 1,15,600 after meeting the maintenance charges of the Tramway, while the Tramway Engineer is of opinion that a net gain of about Rs. 1,40,400 can be had by extracting 13,500 candies. Taking either of the estimates as our basis, the results expected are not discouraging. Would any Member of the House suggest that, in these circumstances, the Tramway should be scrapped immediately? I hope not especially till we are satisfied that it serves no useful purpose. Having spent a large amount as capital outlay, it is our duty to see if it cannot be mended before it is ended, and this can be decided only after conducting a careful reconnoitring survey of the areas tapped by the Tramway to fully explore the possibility of the existence of any more valuable species of timber. The Government are considering the matter. In the light of the explanation now furnished, I hope that the House will find their way to pass the demands under 'Forests' and 'Tramway' in full. If the Members have any more doubts to clear, I am sure, my friend, the Member for Forests, will be able to convince them by facts and figures.

General Administration.—The only item that I have to remark upon is the temporary establishment of a special clerk on Rs. 100 and a typist on Rs. 25 proposed to be entertained from 1st Chingam 1104, and for which a provision of Rs. 1,375 has been made being their cost for a period of 11 months. This new establishment is intended for the purpose of compiling and printing some old valuable records.

Accounts and Finance Department.—It is proposed to strengthen the Account Office Establishment by an addition of six hands to cope with the increasing work of the Department. Of these, four are intended for office work and the remaining for local audit. It is also proposed to convert the post of a Senior

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Auditor to that of a Superintendent by practically abolishing the former. These proposals, involving, as they do, an increase in expenditure of Rs. 2,310 in the coming year, may perhaps require a word of explanation. Ever since 1101 the Comptroller of Accounts has been repeatedly bringing to the notice of the Government that for want of adequate number of hands the work in his office was becoming inefficient due to hasty, delayed audit and still more hasty supervision, where accuracy, promptitude and system are most essential. To quote his own words in a communication which he addressed to the Government lately:— 'As matters now stand, I regret that I have to confess that with all my endeavours the condition of my office is anything but satisfactory. Many of the sections are in heavy arrears; the accounts are ready only very late; review work is being got on very unsatisfactorily. I am getting quite apprehensive of such a state of affairs leading, as it may one day, tosuch unfortunate incidents as the non-detection of serious irregularities, misappropriations, defalcations, &c,'. Such a state of affairs in any office required immediate remedy; the more so in the Account Office, which has always to be maintained at a high level of efficiency. The Special Finance Committee which examined the working of the office has remarked that the additional hands proposed are 'by no means excessive'. In these circumstances it is proposed to strengthen the establishment from 1st Chingam 1104 on the lines already ind cated.

Law and Justice.—Provision is made for the continuance of the Additional District Judge at Trichur and his staff for the whole year. There are no other items calling for any explanation.

Education.—I have nothing to explain this year under the head. The budget estimate is prepared more or less on the lines of the revised estimate of the current year and is fixed at Rs. 13,09,300,thus showing a decrease of Rs. 1,800 as compared with the latter. The decrease is only apparent and not real, since the expenditure incurred under this head for the special benefit of the depressed classes has been transferred to a new head of expenditure 'Uplift of the Depressed Classes'. Had it not been for this transfer, the budget estimate under 'Education' would have exceeded the revised estimate by nearly Rs. 40,000. Especially under 'Primary Education' larger provisions have been made under 'Grants-in-aid' to meet the growing demands of the situation.

Medical.—The main features of the Medical budget are the provision made for clearing off the old arrears finally, the additional staff ofnurses and servants proposed to be entertained next

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly